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Shuster Condemns Official's Decision to Censor 'God' from U.S. Capital Flag Certificates

Washington, D.C. – **Congressman Bill Shuster** signed onto a letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi strongly objecting to the decision by the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) to censor citizens who request the word “God” to be inscribed on the certificate included with flags flown over the United States Capitol.

“Having flags flown over the Capitol to commemorate important events are some of the most popular requests my constituents ask of me. Their requests should not be censored out of political correctness,” Shuster said.

Constituents requesting flags with certificates inscribed with the phrase “for the love of God, family, and country” have seen their requests censored by the AOC. This is the result of the Architect of the Capitol who ruled that the use of the word “God” in the phrase constitutes a religious expression and should be banned.

“The word ‘God’ is on our currency and it is inscribed throughout the Capitol building,” Shuster said. “I fear that the decision to remove ‘God’ from the flag certificates will create a precedent that will allow the Architect of the Capitol to completely remove the reference from the Capitol altogether.”

In 2002, the liberal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled that the phrase, “one nation under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance was an unconstitutional endorsement of religious belief. Congress quickly acted after this decision by passing resolutions calling the court’s decision “infirm and historically incorrect.” The Senate passed their resolution 99-0 and the House passed their own 416-3. Nancy Pelosi, then the House Minority Leader, supported the condemnation of the court ruling.

“Speaker Pelosi voted against the appeals court ruling on this matter five years ago. I hope she does the right thing today and reinstates the word ‘God’ on our flag certificates,” Shuster added.

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